

# INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

## County of Los Angeles



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DEBRA W. YANG  
U.S. Attorney

BRYCE YOKOMIZO  
Director, Public Social Services

July 12, 2006

**TO:** Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chairperson  
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

**FROM:** Deanne Tilton, Executive Director  
Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect  
(ICAN)

### ICAN TASK FORCE ON MENTORING PROGRESS REPORT

### BACKGROUND

On November 22, 2004, by unanimous vote of the Policy Committee of ICAN, a Task Force was formed to address the critical issue of mentoring Los Angeles County's Foster Youth.

- On January 4, 2005, your Board instructed the Director of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to assume a leadership role with the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) in achieving the goal of providing a mentor for every foster child by the year 2010. Your Board also requested that the Executive Director of ICAN provide ongoing status reports to the Board as appropriate.

ICAN's October 11<sup>th</sup> progress report outlined the activities of the Task Force, including development of Guidelines for Mentoring Foster Youth, and a DCFS Business Plan. The project would initially target DCFS youth ages 10 years and older who reside in Group Homes or in Foster



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homes administered by Foster Family Agencies (FFA). The Task Force also identified the importance of including Probation youth over age 16 who reside in Group Homes licensed for both DCFS and Probation youth.

- **On October 11, 2005, in conjunction with the submission of the above report, your Board instructed the Director of DCFS to work with the CAO to identify and allocate resources to fully staff a Mentoring Section in accordance with the recommendations of the ICAN Mentoring Task Force.**

### FOLLOW UP

The Task Force has been successful in working with DCFS and Probation in the creation of mentoring units within these departments. We are pleased to report that DCFS has recently increased staff for its mentoring section with the addition of four additional Children's Services Administrators. Probation has designated a full time staff person, and hopes to assign additional staff to its mentoring section in the near future.

### CURRENT STATUS

The initial ICAN Task Force on Mentoring accomplished a great deal including: developing a structure for mentoring in Los Angeles County, creating guidelines for mentoring foster youth, promoting awareness of the need for mentors and organizing efforts to identify funds for mentoring. As the goals of the initial Mentoring Task Force were accomplished, on April 28, 2006, on motion of ICAN Chair, Sheriff Leroy Baca, the ICAN Policy Committee dissolved the Mentoring Task Force and created two new Standing Committees: the **Los Angeles Mentoring Model (LAMM) Coalition**, chaired by Children Uniting Nations and ICAN Associates, and the **Mentoring Resource Distribution Committee (MRDC)**, chaired by ICAN and DCFS. (Action Item from the April 28, 2006 ICAN Policy Committee meeting is attached).

### THE LOS ANGELES MENTORING MODEL (LAMM)

The Los Angeles Mentoring Model (LAMM) was created through the work of the ICAN Task Force Resource Development Subcommittee to identify funding for mentoring programs. The subcommittee, chaired by Daphna Ziman, Founder of Children Uniting Nations (CUN), met on several occasions to develop a strategy to bring in





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local, state and national resources for mentoring. These efforts resulted in the formation of the LAMM, an ICAN partnership including DCFS, Probation, Children Uniting Nations, community based programs and others, designed to provide relationship-based mentors and academic mentors to Los Angeles County's foster youth. LAMM targets youth ages 10 and older who reside in large Group Homes or in foster homes administered by Foster Family Agencies (FFA). By coordinating efforts, LAMM works toward the goal of ensuring that children who need a mentor are matched with one, and that the mentor is able to remain in the child's life, even as they may be shuffled within the system. LAMM also includes one-on-one academic mentoring to foster and at-risk children through Academic Mentor Centers. Should the LAMM model be successful, it has the potential to be duplicated across the country. (For more information on the LAMM please see the attached LAMM summary).

The LAMM Coalition efforts have been many, including meetings with United States' Senators, Congressmen and other national figures. As a result, an earmark in the federal budget for the LA Mentoring Model has been proposed, co-sponsored by Senator Mary Landrieu and Congressman Howard Berman. (Please note the attached support letters submitted by the Governor and several members of the United States' Senate and Congress).

At the state level, Assemblymember Karen Bass, chair of the Select Committee on Foster Youth, has led an extraordinary effort to focus on the needs of California's foster youth. Assemblymember Bass accompanied Daphna Ziman and Deanne Tilton on a recent visit to address Federal Senate and House leadership regarding the LAMM. Ms. Bass also accompanied Ms. Ziman and Ms. Tilton to Sacramento to meet with the state Senate and Assembly leadership, the Select Committee on Foster Youth and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Joining the LAMM contingency were Alan Landsburg, vice chair of ICAN Associates, and several media personalities.

In part due to these efforts, the recently released state budget has allocated \$75 million for foster youth and specifically mentions mentoring as an important strategy for better meeting the needs of our foster youth. The LAMM coalition actively advocated for mentoring to be included in the state budget language, and now enthusiastically looks forward to working with your Board to set up a process for ICAN and ICAN Associates to facilitate allocation of these funds.



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ICAN's new Standing Committee, the MRDC, has specifically been created to develop a process for distributing mentoring funds as they come into Los Angeles County. The MRDC is comprised of representatives from numerous county agencies and will work in conjunction with ICAN Associates, ICAN's non-profit 501 (c) 3 partner, which will act as the fiscal agent for the LAMM. The MRDC recently met and formed three subcommittees to:

- develop a Request for Interest (RFI) process and scoring instrument,
- develop outcome measures and an accountability process, and
- support events including mentor appreciation events and activities to encourage mentor retention.

### **SUMMARY**

The size and diversity of Los Angeles County and its population of foster youth require a high level of coordination to bring standardized, quality resources to the children who need them most. Only recently has a comprehensive effort been made to begin to address the need for mentor programs specifically designed for foster youth. While many traditional mentor programs have qualities that are applicable to serving foster youth, the need surpasses the capacity of current resources. Additional considerations such as the length of mentor commitment, the willingness to sustain the relationship when a youth changes placements, the ability of a mentor to forge a healthy relationship with a child with serious emotional needs, the willingness of a mentor to connect with a youthful offender, and the careful matching and close supervision of the match, will require that this countywide effort focus on issues not previously addressed on such a large scale.

We are very pleased with our progress to date. The establishment of the LAMM and the MRDC will do much to move forward our efforts to provide mentors for our foster youth and have pointed us in the right direction to establish a strong mentoring model to benefit not only the foster youth of Los Angeles County but, hopefully, foster youth throughout the country as the model succeeds and grows.



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Thank you for the opportunity to work on this groundbreaking project that will afford our foster youth a better chance for permanency and hope for successful and meaningful lives.

### Attachments

LAMM Summary  
Support Letters  
ICAN Action Item

c: Sheriff Leroy D. Baca, ICAN Chairperson  
Dr. David Sanders, Director, Department of Children and Family Services  
Robert Taylor, Director, Probation Department  
CAO  
Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
ICAN Policy Committee  
ICAN LAMM Coalition  
ICAN MRDC  
ICAN Associates







### THE LOS ANGELES MENTORING MODEL

A partnership has been developed between the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN), Children Uniting Nations (CUN), the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Los Angeles County Probation Department. Together, these agencies have created an initiative called the Los Angeles Mentoring Model (LAMM), which, if supported, holds great potential for the rest of our nation's foster children. The collaborative effort of this partnership is significant and unique to the foster care system. ICAN is the largest county-based child abuse network in the country and it encompasses every agency involved in Los Angeles' foster care system (Child Advocacy, Children and Family Services, Department of Mental Health, Department of Public Social Services, Los Angeles City Attorney, Los Angeles County Council, Los Angeles County District Attorney, LA Unified School District, Department of Education, Los Angeles Probation Department, Los Angeles County Public Defender, Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Los Angeles Public Library). The LAMM targets youth ages 10 and older who reside in large Group Homes or in foster homes administered by Foster Family Agencies ("FFA"). By coordinating efforts, the LAMM ensures that children who need a mentor are matched with one, and that the mentor is able to remain in the child's life even as they are shuffled within the system. The program also offers one-on-one academic mentoring to foster and at-risk children through CUN's Academic Mentor Centers.

The program begins when members of the Los Angeles community are invited to take part in a number of recruitment events, most notably "Day of the Child." This single day is important for two reasons; (1) it is a special treat for the foster child to enjoy the individual attention of an adult in an exciting setting, and (2) it encourages its participants to commit to becoming trained, long-term mentors. This event recruits approximately 1,500 potential mentors to be matched with an individual foster child for a day of carnival rides and games, concerts, and presents. CUN then conducts a pre-screening and two-day long orientation and training for mentors interested in long-term

mentoring. Participants are educated about the difficulties foster children face, and how to relate to them in the proper way. There are two types of training the mentor may go through, although both involve an individualized approach ("one-on-one" formats). They become either "relationship-based" or "academic" mentors. The process takes 1-3 weeks, depending on the participant's availability.

Academic mentoring takes place in a supervised setting on school grounds for a minimum of 2-4 hours a week. The LAMM created multiple Academic Mentoring Centers in extreme low socio-economic areas so that children living in residential Group Homes have a place to work with a mentor free from distraction. Academic mentors collaborate with the Los Angeles Unified School District, DCFS and CUN/mPlay. Other collaborative partner of the Academic Mentor Center Program are: the county-wide after-school program, "Beyond the Bell," the University of Southern California, which provides the program with many mentors, the Los Angeles Bar Association, which teaches conflict resolution skills, and the Los Angeles Police Department, which has encouraged the spread of this particular mentoring program to a number of local at-risk high schools.

#### Education and Advocacy

Children Uniting Nations serves as the model's principle mentor recruitment and mentor training tool. CUN has also taken the lead in educating legislators regarding LAMM and the needs of foster children. CUN and ICAN have been pursuing federal funding with respect to the LA Mentoring Model. The purpose is: 1) to have good laws enacted that will help support mentoring for at-risk children, and 2) to have federal money allocated to support LAMM. For example, during the week of June 12, 2006, the proposed House version of the Labor HHS bill included an appropriation of \$240,000 to the LAMM. This was accomplished with the help of Rep. Howard Berman and Leader Nancy Pelosi. The Senate is producing its own appropriations bill to support mentoring, with Senator Landrieu being our greatest advocate in the Senate, along with the Senators Clinton, Kerry, Snowe, Feinstein, Boxer, Bayh, and Coleman. State and federal funds resulting from the efforts of LAMM will be funneled through and disbursed by ICAN Associates. Daphna Ziman and Deanne Tilton recently held meetings on behalf of LAMM on Capitol Hill to present the initiative to, and educate, key Senators and Representatives in attendance (for a full list, see attached pages).

In Sacramento, CUN and ICAN have been working with a bipartisan group of California Legislators in Reforming the State's Foster Care System. Daphna Ziman (CUN), Deanne Tilton (ICAN) and Assemblymember Karen Bass recently held their first meeting with the Governor. Based on their efforts, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger recently agreed to put \$75 million into the state budget to



serve children in foster care. Ms. Ziman worked with the Governor and his staff to ensure the terms "mentoring" and "mentor" were included in the bill's language so that mentoring services could be included as part of the foster care package. Assemblymember Karen Bass (D-Los Angeles) chairs the Select Committee on Foster Care with Assemblymember Bill Maze (R-Barstow) serving as the vice chair. After the meeting with the Governor, CUN and Ms. Bass spearheaded a Select Committee on Foster Care Informational Briefing, to hear subject matter expert testimony by Daphna Ziman and Deanne Tilton (ICAN) and their team. A series of bipartisan Select Committee hearings were also held addressing relative caregivers, and emancipation issues. Ms. Ziman also spoke at the California Capitol Event and Rally during National Foster Care Month in Sacramento:

### **Potential for Replication**

Supporting the LAMM as a pilot program holds great potential for our nation's child welfare system because its structure lends itself to replication. In addition, supporting the Los Angeles Mentoring Model could attract funding from private organizations that are already interested in evaluating its effects, such as the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and the University of Southern California. Such studies may also include a state-by-state analysis of existing mentoring programs that the LAMM could be adapted to.

### **Federal Support for The ICAN Los Angeles Mentoring Model**

In addition to the Senators and Representatives demonstrating their support of our programs by co-chairing the conference, the following political leaders have also declared their support for LAMM:

#### **National Conference Chairs/Co-Chairs**

Norm Coleman (R-Minnesota)  
Hillary Clinton (D-New York)  
John Kerry (D-Massachusetts)  
Former House Majority Leader Dick Armey  
Olympia Snowe  
Nancy Pelosi  
George Miller  
Ted Kennedy (D-Massachusetts)  
Evan Bayh (D-Indiana)  
Mary Landrieu  
Howard Berman  
Henry Waxman  
Ed Markey  
Luis Fortuno  
Tom Osborne  
Olympia Snowe

#### **Senators**

Barbara Boxer  
Dianne Feinstein

#### **Representatives**

Adam Schiff  
Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Xavier Beccara  
Dennis Cardoza  
Former Congresswoman  
Jennifer Dunn  
Harold Ford Jr.  
Luis Fortuno  
Ray LaHood  
Nita Lowi  
Juanita Melinder-McDonald  
Dave Obey



Senator Ackerman (Senate Minority Leader)  
Senator Perata (Senate Pro-Tem)

Maxine Waters  
Hilda Solis

**Officials**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
President of the Urban League Mark Morial  
Former Surgeon General Susan Blumenthal

Mayor Michael Bloomberg  
Former Governor Gray Davis  
Governor Ed Rendell

**State of California Support for the ICAN Los Angeles Mentoring Model**

The following is a list of legislators who attended meetings held at the State Capitol on Tuesday, May 2, 2006. Assembly Member Karen Bass attended all of the following meetings with Daphna Ziman and her team (all subject matter experts). CUN and Karen Bass also spearheaded a Select Committee on Foster Care Informational Briefing, to hear subject matter expert testimony by Daphna Ziman and Deanne Tilton (ICAN) and their team. Ms. Ziman also spoke at the California Capitol Event and Rally during National Foster Care Month in Sacramento:

**Assembly Members attending CUN and LAMM led meetings:**

Assembly Member Mark Leno  
Assembly Member Bill Maze  
Assembly Member Shirley Horton  
Assembly Member Loni Hancock  
Assembly Member Carol Liu  
Assembly Member Rebecca Cohn  
Assembly Member Noreen Evans  
Assembly Member Dave Jones  
Assembly Member Sharon Runner  
Assembly Member George Plescia  
Assembly Member Fabian Nunez

## **LOS ANGELES MENTORING MODEL**

### **ACTION ITEM**

#### **MENTORING: CREATION OF COALITION PLANNING AND RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEES**

##### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- A. It is recommended that ICAN create a new committee devoted to the development, expansion and support of a Coalition of public and private partners for expanding mentoring capabilities for system involved youth in Los Angeles County. It is further recommended that this Coalition be known as the Los Angeles Mentoring Model Coalition.
- B. It is further recommended that a planning and resource distribution committee be formed to develop a process for the distribution of funds coming into ICAN Associates on behalf of the Los Angeles Mentoring Model Coalition.

This planning and resource distribution committee should be comprised of representatives from ICAN, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Los Angeles County Probation Department (Probation), District Attorney, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Police Department, Public Defender, Los Angeles County Office of Education, Los Angeles Unified School District, Department of Mental Health, Department of Health Services, Department of Public Social Services, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Los Angeles County Juvenile Court and the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation should be convened to develop and oversee this process. As the youth targeted for mentoring are part of the DCFS and Probation systems, these agencies should appoint two representatives; all other agencies should appoint one representative. The names of these agency representatives should be provided to ICAN no later than May 31, 2006.

**RATIONALE:** After much hard work on the part of the ICAN Task Force on Mentoring, the project is now ready to move into a new phase. Widespread efforts have been made to identify and secure funding sources for the ongoing building and expansion of mentoring opportunities for system involved youth in Los Angeles County. Many of these efforts have been made at the level of the federal government and as a result of this process, the Los Angeles Mentoring Model (LAMM) was created. LAMM is a Coalition of public and private organizations collaborating together for the establishment of a strong community-based network of mentoring programs and organizations devoted to the provision of mentors for system involved youth. ICAN Associates, the non-profit 501 ( c ) partner of ICAN, has formally agreed to act as fiscal agent on behalf of LAMM. Funds secured in support of mentoring will come into ICAN Associates and will be distributed to support interested organizations in their efforts to recruit, screen and train mentors and to engage in ongoing support of mentors after they have been appropriately matched with a system involved youth. An objective and thoughtful process for the distribution of funds from ICAN Associates on behalf of LAMM to these organizations must be developed.





GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

June 19, 2006

The Honorable Ralph Regula Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Obey Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Regula and Mr. Obey,

As you work to finalize funding for important human services programs I would like to highlight our shared commitment to improving the lives of children in foster care in California and across the country. The State Legislature and I have been working diligently to improve the safety, permanency and well-being of children in foster care. As a result, California will invest significant new State funding over the next several years to help children in foster care, and those at-risk of placement in foster care, to reach their full potential and lead full and successful lives.

We have made great strides in improving the lives of children in foster care in California, but much work remains. I regret to say that far too many children in foster care lag behind their counterparts outside the system. Almost half of former foster youth fail to graduate high school, more than half are unemployed, many face homelessness and/or come into contact with the criminal justice system. We all need to do more to help this at-risk population.

Los Angeles County has created a unique mentoring program to give children in foster care the tools and one-on-one support they need to successfully navigate their education and prepare them for success beyond high school. The LA Mentoring Model (LMM) is making a difference for children in foster care by pairing them with a mentor in order to

STATE CAPITOL • SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814 • (916) 445-2841



The Honorable Ralph Regula  
The Honorable David Obey  
June 19, 2006  
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enhance their academic performance. Studies show that foster children participating in mentoring programs display improved behavior and attitudes toward education and have a greater chance of participating in higher education. I urge you to support foster care mentoring programs like the LA Mentoring Model which can serve as a template for a nationwide program. The federal contribution to LAMM will augment local investments from government and the private sector.

I look forward to working with you throughout the entire appropriations process and want to thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Arnold Schwarzenegger

cc: The Honorable Jerry Lewis, Chairman  
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
California Congressional Delegation





ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA  
MAYOR

February 15, 2006

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
House Democratic Minority Leader  
Democratic Congressional Campaign  
430 S. Capitol St. SE, 2nd Floor  
Washington, DC 20003

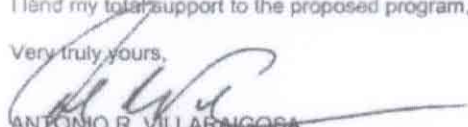
Dear Leader Pelosi,

I'm writing in support of Children Uniting Nations (CUN), the Mentoring Partnership of LA Youth (MPLAY), and the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) in their efforts to complete and enhance the Los Angeles model for the mentoring and academic mentoring of foster children. The LA Foster Youth Initiative (FYI) is a collaborative partnership within LA County that is focused on improving the lives of its foster youth by striving to provide each of them with a mentor.

The effects of mentoring and academic mentoring have been studied to show that youth who have an Academic Mentor are far more likely to finish high school, advance to higher learning institutions, maintain gainful employment and become productive members of society. These positive outcomes work to defy the alternative statistics: 78.8% of all inmates in prison spent at least one year in the child welfare system, the unemployment rates for emancipated youth are estimated at 50%, and only a fraction of the foster care children graduates from high school to go on to pursue higher education.

I lend my total support to the proposed program, The LA Foster Youth Initiative.

Very truly yours,

  
ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA  
Mayor

ARV:cwd



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

822 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
Telephone (213) 974-4444 / FAX (213) 626-6941

**DON KNABE**  
SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT

February 14, 2006

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
House Minority Leader  
H-204 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6537

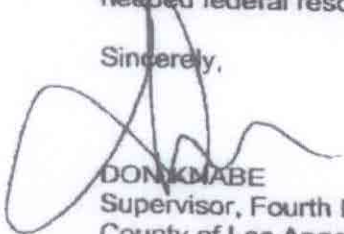
Dear Minority Leader Pelosi:

Children in foster care are among the most vulnerable members of our society. It has been shown that qualified mentors can provide the support and guidance these children so desperately need to face the challenges of life in out-of-home care. A caring and committed adult can provide a foster child the promise of an easier and more successful transition out of the child welfare system to independence with the ability to become a happy and productive citizen.

Recognizing the profound benefits of mentoring foster children, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, on my motion, joined with the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect and Department of Children and Family Services, to strive towards providing mentors for all foster children in Los Angeles County by 2010.

As Los Angeles County has the country's largest foster care system, it would be extremely beneficial to fund a mentoring model in this County as a model for the nation. We fully support the efforts of ICAN and Children Uniting Nations to bring critically needed federal resources to the foster children of Los Angeles County.

Sincerely,

  
**DON KNABE**  
Supervisor, Fourth District  
County of Los Angeles

DK:lr

TOTAL P.01



# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2101

April 13, 2006

Ms. Deanne Tilton  
Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect  
4024 N. Durfee Avenue  
El Monte, CA 91732

Dear Dianne:

We know that good influences in young lives can make all the difference for their future. Sadly, many foster children lack the positive, safe, and caring support they need to succeed in school and in life. Often they are left embroiled in the criminal justice system, or become homeless later in life. Mentoring is one of the most effective strategies to combat these desperate circumstances.

I have long been aware of the critical role of the Interagency Council on Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) in addressing the systemic need for mentoring children. Recently, other Senators and I reviewed the Los Angeles Mentoring Model collaborative (LAMM) being formed by ICAN to mentor at-risk children in greater Los Angeles, with a focus on foster children. I believe this groundbreaking model holds great promise to help foster children make better life decisions and succeed academically.

I have also had an opportunity to learn about the strategic plans underway by LAMM to expand its holistic services and support by developing enduring and meaningful one-on-one relationships between adults and children. I'm hopeful that LAMM's approach to create a comprehensive system of mentoring will serve as a model for other communities to adopt.

I strongly support the LAMM model to create and maintain a system of caring and dedicated adults who can serve as long-term role models for youth in need, and I'm confident that this impressive partnership will help improve the lives of foster children and youth for years to come.

Sincerely,

  
Edward M. Kennedy



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

County of Los Angeles  
Sheriff's Department Headquarters  
4700 Ramona Boulevard  
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



April 13, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

**LETTER OF SUPPORT**

This letter is to offer the full support of the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services in the Los Angeles Mentoring Model's (LAMM) efforts to seek funding for the development and enhancement of mentoring programs for system involved youth. The Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) is a leader in developing and supporting public and private efforts to expand the reach of local mentoring opportunities into an underserved community of foster children. As a pioneer in Los Angeles, ICAN and its Mentor Task Force have developed a multi-year strategic plan to meet the mentoring needs of system involved youth through a creation of a collection of public and private agencies countywide, and the development and publication of Best Practice guidelines for mentoring foster youth.

For several years, I have chaired the ICAN Policy Committee, an advisory body consisting of all Los Angeles County Department Heads and members of the community at large. I know ICAN as a forceful presence and a valued partner in County efforts to enhance existing foster youth mentoring programs and to generate interest and commitment from a variety of community organizations to develop additional mentoring resources.

Detectives from the Sheriff's Department's Special Victims Bureau, investigate approximately 3,500 cases involving the physical and sexual abuse of children. Many of these cases involve children that are placed in protective custody or are in foster placement. Our investigators work very closely with the Department of Children and Family Services to ensure that the children are provided with support and services during the criminal proceedings. At the conclusion of the criminal proceedings, we believe it is essential that effective mentoring continue.

*A Tradition of Service*



To Whom It May Concern

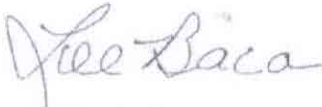
-2-

April 13, 2006

For children in foster care and in the probation system, a long-term connection to a caring adult mentor may make the difference between a youngster's success or failure in later life. A sense of connection is a powerful tool to encourage the development of good social skills, responsible values, academic achievement and a positive identity. ICAN and its partners have seen the value in this and have developed guidelines for programs mentoring foster youth, including various relationship-based and academic mentoring models.

The Sheriff's Department considers ICAN (and ICAN Associates) vital partners in Los Angeles County's five-year goal of ensuring that every system involved foster youth, who needs a mentor, is able to benefit from this connection. Funding for ICAN Associates' LAMM ensures that they can continue to invest in the future of foster and probation youth through mentoring.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leroy D. Baca". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

LEROY D. BACA  
SHERIFF

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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JON LAURITZEN  
DAVID TOKOFSKY



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Administrative Office  
333 South Beaudry Avenue, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90017  
Telephone: (213) 241-7000  
Fax: (213) 241-8442

**ROY ROMER**  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

February 17, 2006

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Congresswoman, California, 8<sup>th</sup> District  
2371 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Pelosi,

I'm writing in support of Children Uniting Nations (CUN), the Mentoring Partnership of LA Youth (mPLAY), and the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) in their efforts to complete and enhance the Los Angeles Model for the Mentoring and Academic Mentoring of foster children.

The LA Foster Youth Initiative (FYI) is a collaborative partnership within Los Angeles County that is significant and unique to the foster care system and encompasses nearly every agency in the Los Angeles system--Los Angeles Unified School District, Child Advocacy, Children and Family Services, Department of Mental Health, Department of Public Social Services, Los Angeles City Attorney, Los Angeles County Council, Los Angeles County District Attorney, Department of Education, Los Angeles Probation Department, Los Angeles County Public Defender, Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles County Fire Department and Los Angeles Public Library. By coordinating their efforts, the Los Angeles Mentoring Model ensure that those children who need a mentor are matched with one and that the mentor is able to remain in the child's life even as they are relocated within the system.

Studies show that youths who have an academic mentor are far more likely to finish high school, advance to higher learning institutions, maintain gainful employment and become positive, productive members of society. Because 78.8% of all inmates in prison spend at least one year in the child welfare system, the high unemployment rates for emancipated youth (estimated at 50%), and because only a fraction of the foster care children graduating from high school go on to higher education, I believe the LA Model represents a solution to the needs of our foster children. I am in full support of this program.

Sincerely,

Roy Romer

RR:jm

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
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AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

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ON NATIONAL SECURITY  
CO-FOUNDER AND CO-CHAIR

SENIOR WHIP



**ADAM B. SCHIFF**  
29TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

☐ WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
328 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4176  
FAX: (202) 225-6828

☐ DISTRICT OFFICE:  
BRALEY BUILDING  
35 SOUTH RAYMOND AVENUE  
SUITE 205  
PASADENA, CA 91105  
(626) 304-2727  
FAX: (626) 304-0572

E-Mail Via WEB ADDRESS AT:  
[www.house.gov/schiff](http://www.house.gov/schiff)

April 13, 2006

Ms. Gwendolyn Williams, Program Manager  
Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention  
Department of Justice  
810 7th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20531

Dear Ms. Williams:

I respectfully request your strong consideration of the request made by the Interagency Council on Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) of Los Angeles County, California for \$400,000 over four years in Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention funds for its Los Angeles Mentoring Model (LAMM) pilot program that matches mentors with foster children.

Kids need to learn and mature in safe and nurturing environments, yet so many face difficult circumstances because of broken families, poverty or a lack of opportunity. Those in foster care are in an especially precarious situation. Twenty percent of all foster kids will be forced to wait over five years for a safe, permanent family. Even worse, almost 20,000 older youth "age out" of the system without the assistance of a permanent family every year. As a result, these children often lack the role models needed to mature properly.

In some cases, these burdens are too much to bear, and a child who could have contributed greatly to society takes a much more destructive path. We can prevent this from happening by enrolling these children in a nurturing, long-term mentoring program. Through one-on-one caring and sustained relationships, we can reach those at risk of delinquency, and help them succeed academically and lead productive lives. Our children truly are an investment in the future, and all of those who have participated in mentoring know that it is an investment that pays off greatly.

LAMM is a comprehensive method of recruiting and screening quality individuals who will dedicate sufficient time and energy for successful mentoring relationships. With federal support, local authorities hope to link all foster children in the county with mentors by the end of the decade. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam B. Schiff".  
**ADAM B. SCHIFF**  
Member of Congress





David Sanders,  
PH.D.  
Director

**County of Los Angeles**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**  
425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90020  
(213) 351-5602

April 13, 2006

Board of Supervisors  
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Fifth District

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to offer the support of the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services for the ICAN Associates to seek OJJDP funding for development and enhancement of mentoring programs for system involved youth in Los Angeles County. The Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) is a leader in developing and supporting public and private efforts to expand the reach of local mentoring opportunities to serve an under-served community of foster children. As a pioneer in Los Angeles, ICAN and its Mentor Task Force have developed a multi-year strategic plan to meet the mentoring needs of system involved youth through the creation of a collective of public and private agencies countywide and the development and publication of Best Practice guidelines for mentoring foster youth.

For several years ICAN has been a forceful presence and a valued partner in county efforts to enhance existing foster youth mentoring programs and to generate interest and commitment from a variety of community organizations to develop additional mentoring resources. As one of the largest child protective agencies in the country, the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services supervises more than twenty thousand foster youth. One of my key Departmental goals is to find legally permanent homes for foster children who are not able to be reunited with their family of origin. While our success rates for adoption are climbing, we need to be mindful of those children and youth who may never achieve legal permanency. For those children, a long-term connection to a caring adult mentor may make the difference between a youngster's success or failure in later life. A sense of connection is a powerful tool to encourage the development of good social skills, responsible values, academic achievement and a positive identity. ICAN and its partners have seen the value in this and have developed guidelines for programs mentoring foster youth, including relationship-based and academic mentoring models.

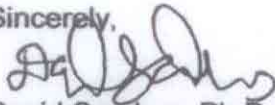
OJJDP funding will enable the Los Angeles Mentoring Model (LAMP) to become a pilot which will demonstrate what is possible when the community comes together to build a network of support through mentoring.

April 13, 2006

Page 2

The Department considers ICAN and ICAN Associates vital partners in Los Angeles County's five-year plan to achieve the goal of ensuring every system involved foster youth who needs a mentor is able to benefit from this connection. Funding for ICAN Associates' LAMM ensures that they can continue to invest in the future of foster children through mentoring.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Sanders", written over the word "Sincerely,".

David Sanders, Ph.D.  
Director



PAUL HIGA  
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
**PROBATION DEPARTMENT**  
9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY, DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242  
(562) 940-2501  
<http://probation.co.la.ca.us>



April 13, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

The County of Los Angeles Probation Department is pleased to support the application from the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) in their request for grant funds for the development and enhancement of mentoring programs for system involved youth as part of the L.A. Mentoring Model (LAMM). The Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) is a leader in developing and supporting efforts to expand the reach of local mentoring opportunities for foster children, who are under supervision of either the dependency or delinquency courts.

The Los Angeles County Probation Department supervises youth in foster care. While the majority of these youth are reunited with family, many live in long-term foster care with relatives and some emancipate with no connections to any caring adult. For those children, a long-term connection to a mentor may make the difference between a youth's success or failure in later life. A sense of connection can encourage the development of good social skills, responsible values, academic achievement, a positive identity and the reduction of delinquent behaviors.

ICAN and its partners have seen the value in this and have developed guidelines for programs mentoring foster youth, including various relationship-based and academic mentoring models. OJJDP funding will enable the LAMM to become a pilot which will demonstrate what is possible when the community comes together to build a network of support through mentoring. The Probation Department considers ICAN and ICAN Associates vital partners in Los Angeles County's five-year goal of ensuring that every system involved foster youth who needs a mentor is able to benefit from this connection. Funding for ICAN Associates' LAMM ensures that they can continue to invest in the future of foster children through mentoring.

As resources allow, we fully intend to support LAMM in their effort to provide mentoring opportunities for probation youth.

Sincerely,

Robert Taylor  
Acting Chief Probation Officer





CASA OF LOS ANGELES

**A powerful voice  
for foster children**

12 April 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the proposal of Los Angeles County's Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) for funding of the Los Angeles Mentoring Model (LMM) program. CASA of Los Angeles recruits, trains and supervises volunteers who advocate for children in court and the community. Through this work we see that there are thousands of children in Los Angeles County who have no permanent, caring adult in their lives. We know how crucial it is for children to have a long-term relationship with an adult throughout their childhood and beyond. We see the adverse consequences when this does not happen.

CASA volunteers often cannot fulfill that role. This is mostly because, due to a shortage of volunteers (we can supervise approximately 400 at any one point in time, to serve 27,000 children in out of home care), we reserve CASA volunteers for the children in greatest need of courtroom advocacy. In some cases a CASA volunteer remains in touch with a child. But it is not typical. Our inability to fill the need for mentors is greatly frustrating and that is why I am particularly grateful to ICAN for taking the lead on this important issue.

*A public/private partnership  
between the Los Angeles  
Superior Court and  
Friends of CASA*

Brian Boris, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

Terese C. Lynn  
Assistant Director

Los Angeles Superior Court

Michael Nash  
Presiding Judge  
of the Juvenile Court

Margaret Henry  
Superior Judge  
of the Dependency Court

John A. Clarke  
Executive Officer/Clerk

Friends of CASA

James B. McKinnon  
President

Nancy Davidson  
Executive Director



201 Centre Plaza Drive  
Suite 3  
Monterey Park CA 91754-2142  
P 323.526.6666  
F 323.264.5020  
[www.casala.org](http://www.casala.org)



ICAN has a history of providing leadership in the LA County child welfare system and it is natural for them to take the lead on this important issue. I have been part of the ICAN Mentoring Task Force since its inception and can attest to the care and diligence that the ICAN coalition has taken in crafting a response to this problem – one that recognizes the strengths and limitations of the child welfare system in our county. Despite the limitations of the child welfare system here, there is tremendous untapped potential. There are resources within governmental agencies that can be steered in this direction. There are community-based organizations who find themselves unable to help because they are intimidated by the child welfare system. LAMM can mobilize those resources. It thus promises a large return on investment, not only in terms of services leveraged, but, more important, in terms of improvements in the lives of foster kids.

Sincerely,

Bryan Borys

A powerful voice for foster children



**CASA**  
Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF LOS ANGELES